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Paris Accused of Spying on Mitterand

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 15—New charges of illegal wiretapping were made against the French Government today by *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the mass-circulation satirical weekly.

Advance copies of the issue to be published tomorrow asserted that the Government had spied on the Socialist party leader François Mitterand by planting microphones and a transmitter in his Paris home, which intermittently serves as headquarters for the left-wing opposition.

Le Canard, an investigative journal as well as a satirical weekly with a record of having disclosed many major scandals, also charged that the Government had wiretapped homes or offices of 14 high civil servants, including the prefect of Paris and the head of the French narcotics squad.

C.I.A. Link Hinted

The magazine, which reported last month that an attempt had been made to wiretap its own office, quoted Premier Pierre Messmer as having suggested recently that the United States Central Intelligence Agency might have been involved.

Commenting on this suggestion, Claude Agnel, news editor of *Le Canard*, said Mr. Messmer's remarks represented an attempted diversion.

Le Canard had reported that the wiretapping attempt against it had been discovered accidentally by a member of its staff Dec. 4 when he chanced



The New York Times

François Mitterand.

to go to the office where men were drilling holes into walls and laying out a wire.

The magazine subsequently brought charges against persons unknown. Alain Bernard, the magistrate who is investigating the case has been challenged by the French counter-espionage agency. At first the agency denied involvement in the wiretapping. More recently it has been fighting the citation of a number of its members in the case by invoking national defense.

Le Canard said Mr. Messmer had mentioned the C.I.A. at a luncheon he gave Thursday

for eight French newspapermen, who were barred by the rules of the occasion from quoting him. The magazine reporting that it had obtained the information from one of the participants, quoted Mr. Messmer as having said:

"I am struck to see that the cables that were discovered end up in the office of an American company known to be a cover for the C.I.A."

Cable Led Next Door

This statement the gist of which was confirmed by another participant at the luncheon, referred to the discovery by Judge Bernard's investigators that a cable spotted in a hall of the Canard offices led to an unused chimney in an apartment in the house next door occupied jointly by an American travel agency and an American courier service.

Among previous disclosures by *Le Canard* were the tax returns of the former Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas, which showed that he had been granted large exemptions, and links between private promoters and the building ministry, on the strength of documents furnished by a former ministry aide.

The magazine has long been a favorite outlet for people wishing to leak information. The most knowledgeable among its informants, to judge from the material published by *Le Canard*, are ministry civil servants. According to Mr. Agnel, the government desperately wants to learn their identities.

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